



15 March 2012

Format Selection - 2013 California Building Code Access Provisions

The Division of the State Architect (DSA), has selected the 2010 ADA Standards (ADA) as the format for the 2013 California Building Code (CBC) Chapter 11B accessibility provisions. As the code update is developed, it is DSA's intention to maintain the most stringent provisions from either of the two documents. For the limited number of items on which the ADA and 2010 CBC directly conflict with one another the ADA must prevail. In order to eliminate confusion prior to the adoption and enforcement of the 2013 CBC, these items will be included in a request to the California Building Standards Commission for adoption as emergency regulations with an effective date of 1 July 2012.

The Division of the State Architect (DSA) develops accessibility regulations for State and local government facilities and properties that are privately funded, owned and operated within California. After public comments, hearings and adoption at the Building Standards Commission (BSC) the proposed regulations become part of the California Building Code (CBC).

California's accessibility regulations must meet or exceed the requirements of the ADA. and may also contain additional requirements to assure access and usability for persons with disabilities. Beginning March 15, 2012, compliance with the 2010 ADA Standards is required nationwide and the California regulations must be updated for consistency and to maintain existing provisions that provide greater accessibility.

In preparation for the update DSA evaluated three options for the format of the accessibility provisions. The options included 1) the current California provisions, 2) the International Building Code and 3) the 2010 ADA Standards. DSA requested input and comments from interested individuals, organizations, affected parties and stakeholders on their preference for the model code format. Out of 408 individual responses, the preferences were 65% for the 2010 ADA Standards, 21% for the International Building Code and 14% for the Current California Provisions. Based upon its staff review and input from stakeholders, DSA selected the 2010 ADA Standards as the preferred option.

As the detailed code language is developed DSA's primary goals are 1) to maintain enhanced levels of accessibility provided by existing California regulations and 2) to fully implement the requirements of the 2010 ADA Standards within the California Building Code. DSA will be conducting interactive Stakeholder Forums during May, June and July of 2012 for input and comments. Advance notice and draft language will be provided to interested parties through e-mail to the DSA Access Stakeholder list and postings on the DSA web site. Questions and comments should be directed to Dennis J. Corelis, Deputy State Architect at dennis.corelis@dgs.ca.gov or 916 445-4167.